

07-256

The Secretary of State presents her compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs the Chiefs of Mission and informs them of a policy change in the Department's Diplomatic Importation Program.

Effective immediately, the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection will no longer accept or authorize requests from foreign missions for the blanket clearance of foreign government-owned equipment. This change in policy does not affect the clearance of imports associated with foreign military sales.

All currently approved "blanket" authorizations will continue in effect through the established date of their expiration. Following the expiration of these existing authorizations, foreign missions will be required to submit a completed Form DS-1504 ("Request for Customs Clearance of Merchandise) to OFM to facilitate the certification and approval of the import request. The procedures documenting the proper completion and submission of Form DS-1504 are described in the Department's note No. 02-281, dated January 1, 2003 and at

Section 4 of the *Guidance for Administrative Officers*, both of which are available at OFM's website www.state.gov/ofm.

Questions or concerns with this new policy, should be directed to OFM's Tax and Customs Programs via electronic mail (OFMTaxCust@state.gov) or by telephone at (202) 895-3500, option 2.

Department of State,

Washington, December 3, 2007.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'CJ' or similar, is written over the signature line.